



Rear View

Air Force Traveller nestling under the wing of a classic aircraft at RAF Cosford—snapped by Des and Tina Waller



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**Dorset Branch**

**MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB**



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FEBRUARY 2012

Volume 15

[www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk](http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk)

**DORSET BRANCH NEWSLETTER**

## The MMOC Dorset Branch

was founded in 1977 by Graham Melly and chaired in the early days by Aubrey Batt. It is a Branch of the National Morris Minor Owners Club but has its own accounts and organisation (see Constitution for further details) **We meet on the first Wednesday of every month (7:30 for 8:00)** at the Bournemouth Electric Club, Broadway Lane, BH8 0AA. We have an active calendar of events throughout the year – particularly in the Summer months when we attend many rallies and other shows. The monthly Clubnight is an opportunity to meet the other enthusiasts and enjoy a presentation or other activity organised by the Committee.

Membership currently costs £10 per year, £12.50 for joint membership.

Please ask Branch Secretary if you require a copy of the Dorset Branch Constitution. (Also available on website.) For more details contact Laurie Blewer on 01202 522673 or John Jenkinson on 01202 576690

Advertising: Cars or spares for sale or wanted £5 per entry (Free to members). Traders advertisements: £30 per year.

### Committee Members 2011-2012:

**President: Graham Jarvis (07856 918136)**

**Chairman: John Jenkinson (01202 576690)**

**Secretary: Laurie Blewer (01202 522673, 07947 525884)**

**Treasurer: Jacky Wood (01202 573501).**

**Membership Secretary - Des Waller (01202 573403)**

**Events Organiser/H&S Supervisor - Neville Gerry (01202 747687)**

**Newsletter / Website Editor: Brian Wood (01202 573501)**

**([brian@dorsetmmoc.co.uk](mailto:brian@dorsetmmoc.co.uk))**

**Non Committee posts:**

**Raffle Coordinators: Chris Tilly and Val Palmer**

**Spares Manager: Brian Wood (01202 573501)**

**Regalia Manager: Richard Cyster - (01202 526660)**

**Catering Executives: -Sue Blewer, Lyn Gerry**

### FRONT COVER

So what about this Mistletoe Meander then? There was a brilliant turn out with several new members attending such as Ian Chivers from Bournemouth, with his Traveller. (Snapped by deputy Photographer-in-chief L.Blewer.)

*Dorset Branch of the Morris Minor Owners Club  
Helping to preserve the post war Morris Minor in the Dorset area  
and beyond*

## Forthcoming Events (see also [www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk](http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk))

**(Don't forget to check the website for latest updates to events)**

### 2012

1st February—Clubnight (Blind Auction)  
18th February – Dinner and Dance – Elstead Hotel (**SEE FACING PAGE**)  
24th February—Skittles v 2CV Club at Bloxworth Hall.  
7th March—Clubnight (Hobbies Evening)  
13th March (Tues) Inter Club Quiz v MG Club at Hamworthy Club 7:30pm  
4th April—Clubnight (TBA)  
13-14 April—Devon Weekend (Sidmouth—Royal Glen Hotel)  
2nd May—Clubnight (TBA)  
6th May—Aubrey Batt Run— (Destination TBA)  
12-13 May—Breamore Spring working weekend  
19-20th May—Beaulieu Spring Autojumble  
6th June—Clubnight (TBA)  
7th July – Ferndown Carnival  
8th July – Dorset Branch Rally – Avon Heath Country Park  
5th August—Lymington Rotary Car Show (Venue TBC)  
19th August—Bournemouth & Poole MG Club show at Athelhampton  
31 Aug—2 Sep—Isle of Wight weekend (IoW Branch)  
23 Sept—Breamore Steam Up

### 2013

18th-19th May Beaulieu Spring Autojumble (MORRIS CENTENARY EVENT)

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John Jenkinson, Chairman  
Morris Minor Owners Club, Dorset Branch

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## Annual Dinner & Dance (18th February 2012)

**Don't forget** the Dinner and Dance which is to be held on 18th February. We have planned it in the quieter part of the winter so as to avoid clashes with other events—and it gives us something to look forward to when the events scene is a bit sparse. The cost is £25 per person (£26.50 for non-members) and it will be held at The Elstead Hotel in Knyveton Road. (Please note that this event receives a significant subsidy from Branch funds and as such is very good value!)

## Last chance to book!

**Kick off is at 7:00 for a 7:30 sit down time. Don't forget to bring RAFFLE PRIZES**

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# Dorset Branch Newsletter

February 2012



MORRIS MINOR OWNERS CLUB

Volume 15 Issue 4

**CLUBNIGHT ACTIVITY:  
Blind Auction**

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## NEXT CLUBNIGHT ACTIVITY: Hobbies Evening

The Dorset Branch Newsletter is published on the first Wednesday of the month and sent by post to paid-up members. It is also available for download from the Internet usually about 10 days before the clubnight.

## Editorial

Hello and welcome to the February Newsletter and my monthly epistle. It is pleasing to note that there is growing interest in the Minor from young drivers these days. I guess that this is mostly due to the insurance situation whereby annual premiums can be found for hundreds of pounds rather than thousands (for modern cars). Hopefully, too, the young drivers still also regard the Minor as a 'cool' car. I had an email in December from 'Georgina' - a 15 year old who is looking for a project convertible to restore as a first car (with her father). Hopefully, someone out there will come up with something for her. We wish her well with that one.

Now, the bad news. LMC Hadrian (manufacturer of Morris Minor (and other) repair panels) have ceased trading. The good news (as we currently understand it) is that Nic Harding (Morris Minor Centre, Bath) and Graham Clayton (ESM) have clubbed together and purchased the



John Blake, Joyce Sheppard and 'Stig'

Morris Minor panel tooling with a view to continuing production. The press release from ESM as follows:

*"Following the sale of LMC Hadrian we are very pleased to announce that in partnership with Nic Harding of Morris Minor Centre (Bath) Ltd we have successfully purchased all of the LMC Hadrian Morris Minor panel tooling and so secured the future production of these panels. This excitingly includes the original Henric tooling and will allow us to continue the manufacture of these panels in the U.K. for a great many years to come. Whilst there is in excess of a hundred tools, that clearly will take a considerable time to relocate and re-commission, we will be working flat out to do so and will of course prioritise getting the panels back into production that are most urgently needed. We will update on our news page here as things progress."*

A big **thank-you** to John Blake for his superb quiz at the "Wimborne Antiques Road Show" (January Clubnight.) Well done to Joyce Sheppard for winning the coveted 'Stig' trophy with a score of 20 out of 32.

I had quite a few responses to my story about the convertible's back axle last month. Thanks to all those who phoned or emailed me—it is all sorted now. The Mistletoe Meander was a roaring success again, and many thanks to Laurie for his excellent photos—some of which are displayed here and on the web site. We understand that progress is being made towards getting 'Minor Monthly' back into circulation. Russ Harvey phoned me to say that talks are ongoing with a new publisher and it is expected that there will be a 'catch-up' edition and back to normal for the March issue (available in February).



## For Sale & Wanted & Club Notices

Please let me know if you no longer wish your ad to be included in the newsletter/website. *Editor.*

The Branch Website has a 'Spares Shop' which advertises (mostly) spares. Why not browse the bargains or send me an ad or two with a decent picture.

**New Morris Minor Spares** are available through the club. The current list is posted on the website under the 'New Spares' tab. We hope to have a new spares table at the clubnight, so let me know if you need anything

....  
Brian.



### FOR SALE

#### Reconditioned 948cc engine.

- \* Bored +020", reground crankshaft -010",
- \* Unleaded cylinder head,
- \* Reconditioned rocker shaft,
- \* New oil pump and water pump
- \* Duplex timing chain,
- \* Spin-on oil filter conversion,
- \* *New Accuspark* electronic distributor,

Complete with new plugs, HT leads, thermostat and housing . Fitted with good s/h flywheel, fan assy, manifold etc. Has been carefully detailed to display standard. Ready to fit (just need rad hoses, carburettor etc).

**£750.00** (exchange)

**£800.00** (outright)

£65 extra with new clutch fitted. £50 extra with new alternator & brackets fitted (as shown). £15 extra with new coil and bracket fitted (as shown)

**Can discuss fitting if required.**

(Note: re-manufactured engines are now about £900 and don't include *any* ancillaries).

**Brian Wood 07411 116336**

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## 'Altermo or Dynator?'

Did you know you can get an alternator that looks like a Lucas dynamo for your Morris? I had heard of them, but never actually seen one. My neighbour lent me a magazine which was advertising them, so I investigated further. The supplier is AES (Automotive Electrical Supplies) whom I have used in the past for wiring accessories. The units are called 'Dynalite' and they do a positive or negative earth one.

It looks identical to an original Lucas dynamo and is a direct replacement. It is claimed to give up to 80% more power across all rev ranges. It is approximately 60% of the weight of original unit.

One would expect, therefore, that they will be a bit more than the cost of an ordinary alternator—perhaps around £100 or so, which would be fair enough, I would have thought? *How about £422 for the negative earth one (inc. vat)?* At that price, I think I will be able to put up with an alternator that looks like an alternator. I noted in my Classis Monthly an ad for another called a 'Dynator', sadly, however the price is similarly high. *Editor*

## Hobbies Evening

We are having a Hobbies Evening at the next (March) Clubnight. We haven't done this for a while now, so we thought we had better explain what we do. Whilst we are all 'fanatical' about Morris Minors (aren't we?), many of us also have other hobbies which we are equally (or more) enthusiastic about. So if you have something—preferably a collection or display perhaps you could bring it along to the clubnight. Anything goes really (as long as it doesn't scare the horses) - let's see what an interesting bunch we are. Last time we did it, we had photography displays, model collections, antiques, mirrors etc etc.

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## Editor's Inbox



Hello from Germany,  
My name is Guido and I'm from Germany. I have 3 Morris Minors, two convertibles and one 4 door saloon. I want to sell one of my convertibles, and then I'm looking for a good traveller to buy. If you know a car that is to sell, please let me know. I don't want to restore the car, so please only really good cars. Thank you for help. *(Please pass any replies to the Editor and I will forward them. Thanks)*

29 December 2011 20:27,

Hey, my name is Georgina, I am 15 years old and I am looking for a Morris Minor convertible restoration project. I am after a shell or any parts to help me. Me and my dad are planning on doing it as a project together. If any one can give me some advice or has any parts or knows where I can get a shell it would be much appreciated. Any price or condition considered. Thank you  
*Georgina. (Please pass any replies to the Editor and I will forward them. Thanks)*

Hello, I wonder if we could have a section where members could list companies that have been of special use in their classic car ownership. Clearly there would have to be a disclaimer stating that these are not recommendations either by the club or the member, merely that they were found useful. Here are a couple that others in the area some may not know about:

In Time Clock and Watch Repairs, Boscombe.01202 395235. Mob. 07974 630864. He works in the shop on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Has done a couple of member's car clocks.

Lesro Models in Stoney Lane, Christchurch. Handy for small section metals and tiny machine screws etc.

*Dave Walker (DMMOC 46)*



## Secretary's Report

Good evening and welcome to the February clubnight. Many thanks to John Blake for last month's mystery object competition. Tonight, of course, is the annual Blind Auction hosted by our resident auctioneer Roy Gale. Don't forget that next month is the hobbies evening. I look forward to seeing what else you all get up to.

Tonight is your last chance to book in for this year's Dinner and Dance at the Elstead Hotel on 18<sup>th</sup> of this month. Please get your booking in to Jacky ASAP along with your menu choices.

There is still time to book your place on this year's Devon weekend to the Royal Glen Hotel in Sidmouth. Once again, book in with Jacky who will be glad to let you pay her monthly which makes it a much easier way to afford the weekend.

We have decided that the Aubrey Batt Memorial Run will take place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May. We haven't decided where we will be going yet but please make a note of the date in your diaries. I have posted off the booking forms for our stall at this year's Beaulieu Spring Autojumble. We hope to put on a good display of the new club spares which Brian has on sale as there is never a dedicated Morris Minor Parts dealer there. I have entry forms available for the Swanage Charity day and classic car show on 29<sup>th</sup> April. We haven't been to this show for a few years now so will probably go along this year. As further entry forms come in for rallies and show I will photocopy them and make them available to you as usual.

I am pleased to hear that Minor Monthly has probably found a new publisher and I look forward to receiving my next copy of this excellent magazine.

Not much been done in the garage this month I'm afraid. It will soon be time to start the annual round of servicing though, to get all the cars ready for another year's rally season.

That's all from me for this month, so until next time,  
Happy Minorling  
Laurie.



won't reach our destination.

4) 'Ladies and gentlemen, we apologize for the delay, but there is a security alert at Victoria station and we are therefore stuck here for the foreseeable future, so let's take our minds off it and pass some time together. All together now.... 'Ten green bottles, hanging on a wall.....!'

5) 'We are now travelling through Baker Street ... As you can see, Baker Street is closed. It would have been nice if they had actually told me, so I could tell you earlier, but no, they don't think about things like that!'

6) 'Beggars are operating on this train. Please do NOT encourage these professional beggars. If you have any spare change, please give it to a registered charity. Failing that, give it to me.'

7) During an extremely hot rush hour on the Central Line, the driver announced in a West Indian drawl: 'Step right this way for the sauna, ladies and gentleman... unfortunately, towels are not provided.'

8) 'Let the passengers off the train FIRST!' (Pause ) 'Oh go on then, stuff yourselves in like sardines, see if I care - I'm going home....'

9) 'Please allow the doors to close. Try not to confuse this with 'Please hold the doors open.' The two are distinct and separate instructions.'

10) 'Please note that the beeping noise coming from the doors means that the doors are about to close. It does not mean throw yourself or your bags into the doors.'

11) 'We can't move off because some idiot has their hand stuck in the door.'

12) 'To the gentleman wearing the long grey coat trying to get on the second carriage -- what part of 'stand clear of the doors' don't you understand?'

13) 'Please move all baggage away from the doors.' (Pause..) 'Please move ALL belongings away from the doors.' (Pause...) 'This is a personal message to the man in the brown suit wearing glasses at the rear of the train: Put the pie down, Four-eyes, and move your bloody golf clubs away from the door before I come down there and shove them up your arse sideways!'

14) 'May I remind all passengers that there is strictly no smoking allowed on any part of the Underground. However, if you are smoking a joint, it's only fair that you pass it round the rest of the carriage.'

### Editor's Note

*When travelling on the tube a couple of years ago, we heard a similar announcement that went something like this:*

*'Doors are closing, please mind the doors. That means that the doors are closing please do not get in the way. When I say that the doors are closing, that is what I mean. What is so hard to understand about doors closing? The lady with the push chair—please don't try.... Oh dear, too late.'*

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### BRANCH REBATE SCHEME

You may be aware that the branch receives a financial rebate according to the numbers of national MMOC members who attend the monthly clubnights. We therefore need to update our records so that we can take advantage of this scheme. Please would you advise Des Waller (or any Committee Member) of your MMOC membership number and renewal date and make sure that you sign the attendance sheet at the clubnights. Thank

## British Newspapers

Why we like the British FROM BRIAN TILLY

True Reports from British life .....!!!

Commenting on a complaint from a Mr. Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West Gas said, 'We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible Mr. Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house.' (*The Daily Telegraph*)

Police reveal that a woman arrested for shoplifting had a whole salami in her underwear. When asked why, she said it was because she was missing her Italian boyfriend.

(*The Manchester Evening News*)

Irish police are being handicapped in a search for a stolen van, because they cannot issue a description. It's a Special Branch vehicle and they don't want the public to know what it looks like. (*The Guardian*)

A young girl who was blown out to sea on a set of inflatable teeth was rescued by a man on an inflatable lobster. A coast guard spokesman commented, 'This sort of thing is all too common'. (*The Times*)

At the height of the gale, the harbourmaster radioed a coast guard and asked him to estimate the wind speed. He replied he was sorry, but he didn't have a gauge. However, if it was any help, the wind had just blown his Land Rover off the cliff. (*Aberdeen Evening Express*)

Mrs. Irene Graham of Thorpe Avenue, Boscombe, delighted the audience with her reminiscence of the German prisoner of war who was sent each week to do her garden. He was repatriated at the end of 1945, she recalled—'He'd always seemed a nice friendly chap, but when the crocuses came up in the middle of our lawn in February 1946, they spelt out 'Heil Hitler.'" (*Bournemouth Evening Echo*)



HEARD ON THE LONDON UNDERGROUND TUBE

A list of actual announcements that London Tube train drivers have made to their passengers...

1) 'Ladies and Gentlemen, I do apologize for the delay to your service. I know you're all dying to get home, unless, of course, you happen to be married to my ex-wife, in which case you'll want to cross over to the Westbound and go in the opposite direction.'

2) 'Your delay this evening is caused by the line controller suffering from E & B syndrome: not knowing

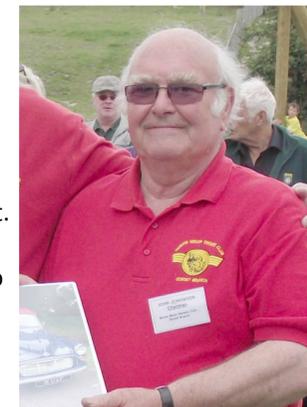
his elbow from his backside. I'll let you know any further information as soon as I'm given any.'

3) 'Do you want the good news first or the bad news? The good news is that last Friday was my birthday and I hit the town and had a great time. The bad news is that there is a points failure somewhere between Mile End and East Ham, which means we probably

## Chairman's Report

Welcome to the February clubnight. Tonight we have the auctioneer from two of the top London Auction houses to run our club charity auction night. So dig deep and make it a good night. Also tonight is the last time to support the club's annual dinner and dance. So let Jacky know tonight whether you would like to go (if not already!). February 24<sup>th</sup> is Skittles Night at the Bloxworth Hall. This is the first time that the Branch has been invited out by the 2CV club – so let's have a good turn out from the members. Also the Branch has been invited to a quiz night at the Hamworthy Sports and Social Club, Magna Road, Bournemouth by the Bournemouth and Poole MG Club. It is nice to see other clubs working together; we all have the same interest. Don't forget that the March clubnight is the Hobbies evening so dig out your secret hobbies and forget about your Minors and Classics Cars for one night only! The Branch Rally on 8<sup>th</sup> July is now taking names from anyone who would like to take a Trade Stall. Also the booking forms should be ready in the next few days. The Isle of Wight Holiday update: Weekend 31 August—2nd September. Bookings are looking good – I have now just received the room, restaurant sittings and the ferry crossing forms to fill in. also, thanks to all the members for their holiday deposits. If you would like to pay the rest of the balance to Jacky or in instalments, that's fine. The 2013 Centenary event at Beaulieu. If you see or know of any rare Morris's please let Laurie know. The number of vehicles so far is about 150 – who have expressed an interest. That's' all for now.

Good Motoring, John.



## Book Club (Plus) by Derek Shearman

Hello everyone - first off; my apologies for my absence from the January meeting. I was struck down by the 'dreaded lurgi' over the Christmas/New year festive season and the malady stayed with me until mid - January. I call it lurgi 'cos it could have been anything from flu to norvo virus (coughs/colds/aches/pains/whatever.....). I also missed the Mistletoe Meander which also was a great shame.

Couple of months ago I asked, on behalf of a friend of a Member, for any illustrated books on the Jowett Jupiter and Javelin. The response from Members was very positive and resulted in me being able to pass on to the enquirer, for a couple of months loan, a mint copy of 'Jowett Jupiter and Javelin - the complete story'. I would also like to thank Sandy Hamilton for pointing me in the same direction for the same publication.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the request for Jowett information. Please do not hesitate to contact me for information you want regarding anything to do with motoring/transport subjects and I will do my best trace any information. My email address is [derekshearman@talktalk.net](mailto:derekshearman@talktalk.net) and my mobile telephone number is 07593 623721. Incidentally the name Jowett lives on, despite having ceased production in 1954. The factory site was purchased by McCarthy & Stone, Britain's Leading Retirement Builder and has been redeveloped with an upmarket block of residential apartments which is named Jowett Court (although I am officially retired from McStone, I still get called in for Office Boy duties. Brilliant - no middle management responsibilities just making up brochures, making tea & coffee etc).

Don't forget - anything you want to know, please contact me and I will do my best for you.

## Buying Tips



good 'starter' moggy would be a late Minor 2-door saloon. These are the easiest to live with and probably the most readily available. A 4-door saloon may be preferable depending on how often you take passengers but they are rarer and the front doors are a bit small. The post 1963 cars have the larger 1098cc engine which gives you a bit more horsepower, but not much! There is nothing wrong with the earlier 948cc (I have three!) but the later engine is arguably a little more usable in today's traffic. You should be able to find an acceptable example for £2,500 - £3,000. (In the £1,000-£2,000 range, you will probably need to get some work done.) If you want the more desirable Traveller or Convertible versions, you will need a bigger budget of between £5-£7k with a decent convertible being in the upper reaches of this range. (Again, less for a car that needs work.) Beware of cars that are 'mutton dressed as lamb', lurking in this price bracket. You shouldn't expect a concours car but, for this money you should get something presentable with no significant faults. There might be the odd knock or bodywork scratch, but nothing serious. Chrome should be good, and everything working with long MOT. The engine should run quietly (1098's do tend to suffer from bottom end wear more than the 948). Gearbox and back axle should be quiet with no whining or jumping out of gear. More importantly, however, the bodywork should be checked thoroughly. Mechanical problems are usually much more easily and cheaply solved than bodywork ones. Buyers with rose-tinted specs are sometimes easily seduced into buying something that *'needs a little work'*. Sadly this often translates into *'it needs a complete rebuild'* when you get it home. It is

Successful buying depends on several things, such as your technical knowledge/confidence, how far you want to go to view cars and whether you want to pay a bit more and buy from a dealer rather than privately.

There is quite a good forum on the MMOC website, which I don't think you have to be a member of to view. I couldn't find any specific article on buying a car on there but I am sure the info is there somewhere.

There are several Minor friendly local garages which advertise in our newsletter and website ([www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk](http://www.dorsetmmoc.co.uk)). There are also some good books available—such as 'The Essential Morris Minor Buying Guide' penned by Ray Newell and published by Veloce (currently on Amazon at £6.99 with free delivery!)

My advice (for what it's worth) is as follows. In the absence of any particular model or year preference, I would suggest that a

easy to blow several times the car's value on having the bodywork repaired to a proper standard. Get underneath and check for MOT patches first. If the car has a lot of these, and the underside looks a mess, it will probably mean recurring and regular visits to the welding man for replacement patches - even though the car may have a current MOT. Ideally, there should be a minimum of such patch repairs - I always prefer to see proper repair panels fitted (they are all available— fingers crossed—see editorial!) but sadly, due to the cost of fitting - owners rarely specify these. If you view a car that has recently been restored, it is more likely to have a properly repaired underside. You need to check the whole chassis area paying particular attention to the outer and inner sills, the rear spring mountings, the front chassis legs, the boot floor etc etc. (Check your preferred buying guide for more detail).

I would be very wary of buying a car on auction web sites (unseen). It seems to be a good way for some unscrupulous vendors to offload a heap for a silly price! But, bargains are there to be had (but not for the faint hearted!) Best to look at local cars (with a friend - two heads being better than one). We sometimes get advised of cars for sale in the Branch, but it seems to be a bit quiet at the moment. There are a few local businesses which usually have Minors for sale but these will inevitably and not unreasonably cost more than a private sale.

Minors do need a bit more looking after than modern cars, some will plug on for a long time if neglected, but then they usually end up suitable only as scrap. My advice would be to buy the best one you can afford and look after it. It will keep its value if you do. Depending on your mileage, you should service it at least annually. The front suspension links need frequent greasing (500 miles

is the recommended interval mentioned in the Workshop Manual). You can head off some of the future servicing costs if you are planning long term ownership by fitting the following improvements (which don't affect originality). Club spares can help with most of these and other items.

**Electronic ignition** (does away with points and condenser and lowers fuel consumption)

**Spin – on oil filter** (makes the oil change much simpler)

Use **Dot 5 silicone brake fluid** – (stops brake cylinder corrosion)

Use **cavity rust prevention fluid** – (needs topping up every 2 years or so to be safe)



There are numerous others but these are the favoured 'simple' ones. If you wanted to spend a bit more money, fit an alternator which will help keep the battery charged during the winter. Also, one of my favourites is the duplex timing chain which makes the engine run a lot quieter.

There you are then, buying can be fun. Good luck with your Minor hunting and remember two heads are better than one and don't be in a hurry to buy the first one you view.

Editor.